

REMARKS

The title has been amended, and claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been amended. Support for the changes to the independent claims appears in the original disclosure, including page 14, lines 21+, of the specification. Claims 1-11 remain in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

The title is objected to as being not clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The title has been amended and, as amended, is believed to be in proper form. The title suggested in the Office Action was not adopted. The word “periphery” does not appear in independent claims 2 and 6.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Devore. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

The claimed invention relates to a device that has a monitor resistor formed of plural transistors. As illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, the areas AQ1-4 of the transistors are located relative to the center portion of a driver resistor area AM1 so as to account for thermal gradients across the driver resistor area AM1, and force applied when the device is mounted on a package. The effect of the applied force is greater toward the periphery of the device than at the center portion (page 14, lines 21 and 22).

Claim 1, as amended, says that “plural transistors are located around a center portion of the area . . . on which [a] driver transistor is mounted, and are not located in the center portion of the [driver transistor] area.” The “plural transistors” are part of the recited “monitor transistor.” Thus, the claim, as amended, also says that “the monitor transistor is not located in the center portion of the area of the semiconductor chip on which the driver transistor is mounted.” Devore fails to disclose or suggest these important aspects of the claimed invention.

Devore refers to a current sensing device. Devore refers to “sense devices . . . on the periphery of the area occupied by [a] power device” (column 1, lines 43 and 44). Devore also refers to an arrangement where sense devices are placed in the center of a power device as well as around the periphery (column 2, lines 2-4). Devore does not refer to any force that may be applied to a semiconductor chip, much less any balancing of such force. Devore fails to disclose or suggest the combination of claim 1, as amended, where “plural transistors are located around a center portion of [an] area of [a] semiconductor chip on which [a] driver transistor is mounted, and are not located in the center portion . . . such that [a] monitor transistor is not located in the center portion.”

Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 or have been amended along the lines discussed above. Claims 2-11 should be allowable along with claim 1 and for other reasons.

Allowance of the application with claims 1-11, as amended, is solicited.

Dated: April 17, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mark J. Thronsen

Registration No. 33,082
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403
202-420-4742
Attorneys for Applicants